

Educational Opportunities

Education is a critical element in the career progression of the AL&T Workforce member. This section lists several career development opportunities that will enable AL&T Workforce members to complete a bachelor's or master's degree or to obtain the 12 or 24 semester hours in business disciplines required for membership in the AAC. For all available education opportunities in this catalog, AL&T Workforce members must pursue disciplines that underpin the acquisition functions as described in the Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 5000.66 Acquisition Career Development Program. Additional information on AETE policy and procedures can be found at <http://asc.army.mil/career/programs/aete/default.cfm>.

Apply for AETE Opportunities — Application and Board Process

The application process used to select individuals for AETE opportunities sponsored and funded by USAASC is conducted using an automated board process. The application process and procedures to apply for these opportunities varies. The application and board process used to select individuals for the many opportunities that are sponsored by USAASC will be the Army Acquisition Professional Development System (AAPDS). AAPDS is an automated application system that can be accessed via the CAMP. Individuals can access CAMP at <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp>. The user name and password will be the same used to access the IDP and ACRB.

All AL&T Workforce members must submit their application through AAPDS. Each AETE opportunity is advertised annually and has specific application instructions. Individuals interested in applying for these opportunities should check the following link for the current AETE opportunities advertised: <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp>.

All applicants are expected to provide the items requested so board members have the appropriate information with which to conduct an evaluation. It is important that all information be as complete and accurate as possible. Assistance in developing these documents or compiling your application can be obtained by contacting your ACM at <http://asc.army.mil/contacts/acms.cfm>.

The board rates the appropriateness of the applicant's requested training opportunity based on the entire board file submitted. Individuals are selected based on previous achievements as provided on the ACRB and the individual's career development plan, the individual's potential to successfully complete the desired program and the benefit to the Army and the AAC.

The ATAP and Naval Postgraduate School Master of Science in Program Management (NPS MSPM) opportunities are needs-based educational opportunities. This means that an individual's records will be evaluated to determine what education and training are needed for current position and future assignments. The evaluation process is not a competitive board process.

The required documentation for the AETE opportunities announced must be submitted using AAPDS by the closing date of the announcement. The board results will generally be made available within 30 days after the completion of the board review. Applicants will be contacted by e-mail regarding the status of their application and selection or non-selection.

HOW TO APPLY:

For a listing of current announcements of AETE opportunities individual should access AAPDS at <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp>. The user name and password will be the same used to access the IDP and ACRB. Once in AAPDS, the applicant may click on "apply now" next to the training event for which they wish to apply.

The AETE catalog provides additional information on how to apply, as well as eligibility criteria for opportunities that are sponsored by USAASC. In addition, information is provided on other opportunities that USAASC does not sponsor or fund.

Senior Service College (SSC) Opportunities

Civilians must apply to an annual board in order to be considered for SSC. ICAF, AWC, NWC, Defense Leadership and Management Program (DLAMP) and DAU-SSCF are available as SSC options for civilians. Civilians are selected by a DA board conducted by the Assistant Secretary of the Army's Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA) or the U.S. Army Human Resources Command. USAASC provides travel and per diem costs for seven AAC members to participate in ICAF. Travel and per diem costs for the other SSC opportunities are provided by the Headquarters DA or funded by the participant's command.

A DA board automatically considers military officers for SSC based on their individual year group. Military officers pursuing full-time Advanced Civil Schooling (ACS) programs are governed by Army Regulation (AR) 621-1, Training of Military Personnel at Civilian Institutions. Application and selection procedures for AAC officers are available at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/active/opfamis/49/current/acs.htm>. An AKO account is required to access this site. Please click on www.army.mil/AKO to register for an account.

SSC

The SSC Program offers a unique opportunity for members of the AAC, military and civilians to gain advanced leadership training and experience specifically designed for senior leadership positions. The following institutions comprise the SSC programs for AAC professionals:

ICAF (Senior Acquisition Course (ACQ 401))

ICAF was designated by the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) to present the Senior Acquisition Course as part of the DAU. At completion, the student acquires SES core competencies as outlined by OPM. The AAC is allocated seven acquisition seats annually for this program. Selection is competitive through a DA board process conducted by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (M&RA) (ASA (M&RA)). The travel and per diem costs are sponsored by USAASC for Army Acquisition members.

Students are offered a wide choice of research and elective opportunities, as well as a common core curriculum and two mandatory advanced studies in acquisition policy courses. Separate attention is given to acquisition course work while retaining the benefits of intermingling with students from the operational and other functional communities. At completion, the student acquires SES core competencies as outlined by OPM.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/
PREREQUISITES:**

- Must have or be able to attain a TOP SECRET clearance with a Special Background Investigation (SBI) that will not expire during the academic year.
- Must be identified by the organization as being on track for executive-level service.
- Must develop a Post Utilization Plan as outlined in the application instructions of the Army Civilian Training Education and Development System (ACTEDS) Training Catalog.
- Must be certified at Level III in a primary ACF and should be certified at Level III in an additional ACF.
- Must possess an undergraduate degree.
- Should possess a graduate degree in an acquisition-related field listed in *DOD/5000.66*, Acquisition Career Development Program.
- Additional consideration will be given to AAC members who are Advanced Program Management Course (APMC) (or equivalent success or course) graduates.

WHO MAY APPLY:

Permanent civilian members of the AAC, grades GS-14/15 or equivalent pay-band, who currently occupy a Critical Acquisition Position (CAP) and meet the minimum certification requirements of that position. For military officers, this is a board process. Military officers should contact their assignment officer at U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

LENGTH: 10 months

- LOCATION:** Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. USAASC provides travel and per diem for AAC participants.
- CLPS:** 10 per quarter hour/10 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded
- HOW TO APPLY:** Application packets must be submitted in accordance with Army Civilian Personnel Policy. Go to <http://cpol.army.mil> and click on References and Tools and ACTEDS Training Catalog.
- PROGRAM DATES:** August to June of each year
- FUNDING SOURCE:** USAASC funds travel and per diem for seven AAC members each year.

Senior Service College Fellowship Programs

Defense Acquisition University Senior Service College Fellowship (DAU-SSCF) Program

The DAU-SSCF develops civilian acquisition leaders. DAU-SSCF is a 10-month program conducted at Huntsville, AL; Warren, MI; and Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. The program is designed to attract participants from local commuting areas while exposing them to leadership training and learning opportunities that will prepare them for critical senior leadership positions such as product and project managers, PEOs and other Key Leadership Positions (KLPs). Individuals who complete the program are awarded equivalency for the Program Manager's Course (PMT 401) and have an option to obtain a master's degree. The program emphasizes leadership in acquisition with core elements in leadership, research, program management and mentoring.

The program includes:

- Program Manager's Course (PMT 401).
- Leadership and application to acquisition.
- Acquisition training in life cycle management linked with the Life Cycle Management Commands.
- Studies in Resource Requirements and Acquisition Integration for senior and strategic leaders.
- Studies in executive leadership.
- Applications of acquisition in National Defense/Security Study.
- Research in acquisition issues and processes.
- Mentoring program with government and industry senior leaders.
- Senior Leadership Speaker's Program.

PLACEMENTS AFTER GRADUATION:

SSCF graduates are assigned to a position of greater responsibility after completion of the program. Each command is responsible for the placement of individuals endorsed and selected to attend the fellowship. The assignment process to include the possible placement should be conducted 6 months after selection into the program.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Be a DA civilian at the (permanent) GS-14/15 or equivalent grades within a Demonstration Project or the NSPS.
- Be an AAC member at the time of application.
- Be serving in a competitive appointment Tenure Group 1 or 2.
- Have or be able to obtain a secret clearance before the time of application.
- Have a bachelor's degree.
- Be identified by one's organization as being on the track for executive-level service.
- Be certified at Level III in a primary ACF.

WHO MAY APPLY: DA permanent civilians at the (permanent) GS-14/15 or equivalent grades within a Demonstration Project or the NSPS. Individuals interested in applying for the program should check the USAASC Web site (<http://asc.army.mil>) during February each year for the annual announcement.

LENGTH: 10 months

LOCATION: Huntsville, AL, Warren, MI and Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.

CLPS: 10 per quarter hour/10 per semester hour, plus 30 for the degree

HOW TO APPLY: Contact the following points of contacts for current announcement. Contact Gloria King at (703) 805-1251, DSN 655-1251 or e-mail gloria.king@us.army.mil or contact Dr. David Newberry at (256) 895-5207 or e-mail david.newberry@dau.mil.

PROGRAM DATES: July of each year

SOURCE OF FUNDING: Participants' command

Army War College (AWC) Resident Program

The AWC prepares selected military officers and civilians for leadership responsibilities in a strategic security environment during peacetime and wartime. AWC studies the role of land power, as part of a joint or combined force, in support of U.S. national military strategy. The curriculum emphasizes theory, concepts, systems and the national security decision-making process. It teaches through numerous case studies, exercises and war games. The student seminar group is the fundamental learning vehicle at the school. For information, go to <http://www.carlisle.army.mil> and <http://cpol.army.mil>.

National War College (NWC)

Master's degree in national security strategy: The program focuses on a broad understanding of national security policy and strategy. It includes national military strategy and operations, particularly principles and concepts students can apply as they progress in their chosen professions. The academic program consists of prescribed core courses, advanced studies and regional studies.

At the conclusion of the academic year, the student receives a master's degree in national security strategy. Military students will have fulfilled the educational requirement for designation as a Joint Specialty Officer. For information, go to <http://www.ndu.edu/nwc> and <http://cpol.army.mil>.

Degree Programs Opportunities

Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)

NPS, located in Monterey, CA, is an academic institution whose emphasis is on study and research programs relevant to the Navy's interests as well as the interests of other DOD Component Services. The student body of more than 1,500 students consists of military officers from the five U.S. uniformed services, officers from approximately 30 other countries and civilian employees. The NPS offers classes leading to advanced degrees in a variety of fields. USAASC's funding of the programs offered by NPS varies each fiscal year and is based on the training needs of the AL&T Workforce. Interested AL&T Workforce members should check the following link for the current announcement: <http://rda.altess.army.mil/camp/>.

NPS Programs Funded by USAASC

Based on the training and education needs of the AL&T Workforce, USAASC currently provides funding for the Master's of Science in Program Management Program (MSPM) – 836. Interested AL&T Workforce members should review the specific program announcement for application and funding information. As provided in the AETE policy, USAASC does not fund a second master's degree regardless of the source of funding for the first master's.

Completion of many of the programs offered by NPS provides various Levels (I, II and III) of certification for some of the ACFs. Any additional certification training courses must be approved for equivalency by an accredited institution. NPS will continue to seek equivalency for the additional courses required for certification. Any additional courses for certification must be completed before the training can be granted towards completion of certification training in the various ACFs. In addition, individuals must still meet the education and experience requirements for certification.

The following education programs are offered by NPS:

NPS - Acquisition and Contract Management (815): This 18-month program leads to a Master of Science degree in Management. The program provides an understanding of the theory and management of field contracting, systems acquisition and contracting administration processes. Major acquisition themes covered in the program are Contract Pricing, Pricing and Negotiations, Contract Law, Contract Administration, Acquisition Management and Major Systems Contracting, and Acquisition Policy. The curriculum is designed to provide federal civilian employees with the knowledge, skills and abilities to manage and lead effectively in hardware systems buying offices, field contracting offices, contract administration offices and contracting policy offices. The MSCM program meets all of the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) for education and training requirements. The Master of Science in Contract Management (MSCM) program is eight quarters in duration and delivered via Video-Teleconferencing (VTC). The curriculum satisfies some of the mandatory DAU contracting course requirements of DAWIA through Level III. Any additional courses for certification must be completed before the training can be granted towards completion of certification training in the various ACFs.

NPS - Systems Acquisition Management (816): This 18-month resident program leads to a Master of Science degree in Management. The program provides an understanding of the theory and management of Systems Acquisition Management. Major acquisition themes covered in the curricula are Commercial Products; Teamwork and Empowerment; Tailoring and Best Practices; and DAWIA certification. Completion of this program leads to Level III training in program management and test and evaluation; Level II training in systems planning, research, development and engineering (SPRDE)-systems engineering; production, quality, manufacturing and software acquisition; and Level I training in contracting. Any additional courses for certification must be completed before the training can be granted toward completion of certification training in the various ACFs.

NPS - Master of Science in Contract Management (835): The MSCM degree is designed to provide civilians in DOD and other federal government agencies an advanced education in the concepts, methodologies and analytical techniques necessary for successful management of acquisition and contracting within complex organizations. The curriculum focuses on problem-solving and decision-making within the acquisition environment utilizing case studies, teaming exercises, hands-on applications, active participation and other similar activities. Lecture and laboratory tasks require the application of critical thinking to problem-solving within actual situations. The curriculum is designed to provide federal civilian employees with the knowledge, skills and abilities to manage and lead effectively in hardware systems buying offices, field contracting offices, contract administration offices and contracting policy offices.

The MSCM program is eight quarters in duration and delivered via VTC.

The curriculum satisfies some of the mandatory Defense Acquisition University (DAU) contracting course requirements of DAWIA through Level III. The additional courses for certification must also be completed.

Students who complete the degree program earn a Master of Science in Contract Management and DAWIA Level III training requirements for ACQ 101, 201, PMT 250, CON 120, 210, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 234 and 353. The program also meets DAWIA requirements for 24 hours of business subjects and 40 hours of annual continuous learning.

NPS - Master of Science in Program Management (MSPM-836): The MSPM-836 is a distance learning program. Sponsored by the AAC and conducted by NPS, MSPM is a 24-month, 8-quarter distance learning program held on station at specific locations, via video teleconferencing. All classes are offered in a Video Tele-Education (VTE) format with students participating from their home command location, providing the student the ability to maintain their current position while attaining this career-enhancing degree. Students that complete the degree program earn a Master of Science in Program Management, DAWIA Level III training requirements for Program Management (PMT 352) and Logistics (LOG 304), Level II for Software Acquisition (SAM 201), Systems Engineering (SYS 201) and Level I in Contracting (CON 101). The program also meets DAWIA requirements for 12 or 24 hours of business subjects and 40 hours of annual continuous learning.

While completion of MSPM and MSCM provides some of the mandatory training for certification for various career fields, the additional courses must be completed. Any additional courses required for certification must be approved for equivalency by an accredited institution. NPS will seek equivalency for those courses.

NPS - Acquisition and Contract Management (815)

The Acquisition and Contract Management Curriculum is an interdisciplinary program that integrates mathematics, accounting, economics, finance, behavioral science, management theory, operations/systems analysis and specific courses in acquisition and contracting. This curriculum is designed to provide officers and civilians with the skills to serve effectively in hardware systems buying for military offices, field contracting offices and contract administration offices and contracting policy offices. Completion of this curriculum for Army students leads to the Master of Science degree in management and provides equivalency for DAU mandatory training courses for Level III training in contracting. Any additional courses for certification must be completed before the training can be granted toward completion of certification training in the various ACFs.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/ PREREQUISITES:

- A bachelor's degree with above average grades is required.
- Completion of at least two semesters of college algebra or trigonometry is considered to be the minimum mathematical preparation.
- A written request must be submitted to the school at least 3 months prior to the program start date.
- A letter of acceptance from the school is required prior to application to the AETE Board.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Mitchell Colston at 703-805-1245, DSN 655-1245 or e-mail mitchell.colston@us.army.mil. For the most current dates and to review additional information on NPS programs, go to <http://www.nps.edu>.

WHO MAY APPLY:

Civilian members of the AL&T Workforce who are certified to at least Level II in their primary ACF and currently assigned to an acquisition position.

LENGTH:

18 months, full-time

LOCATION:

Monterey, CA (residence program)

CLPS:

9 per quarter hour/10 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded

HOW TO APPLY:

The ACTEDS Competitive Professional Development (CPD) CP-14 Program information may be viewed at <http://cpol.army.mil/library/train/catalog>. AAPDS should be accessed via your CAMP login at <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp>. The user name and password will be the same used to access the IDP and ACRB. Applicants must still use the IDP to annotate their training courses and programs. Once in AAPDS, the applicant may click on "apply now" next to the event for which they wish to apply. Go to the Career Acquisition Personnel & Position Management Information System (CAPP MIS) via CAMP and click on the AAPDS tab to be taken to the applicant module.

FUNDING SOURCE:

ACTEDS CPD CP-14 Program

NPS - Systems Acquisition Management (816)

The Systems Acquisition Management curriculum is an interdisciplinary program that integrates business principles, management theory, operations/systems analysis and engineering applications. It is uniquely tailored to Defense Acquisition Management with intensive exposure to the fundamental principles of the acquisition environment. The courses in this curriculum present the structure of acquisition management, the decisions and problems facing the Defense Acquisition Manager, the various forces at work within industry and government, and the impact of acquisition policies and strategies. Completion of this curriculum for Army students leads to the Master of Science degree in Management and also satisfies the DA training requirements for the PMT-352.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/
PREREQUISITES:**

- A bachelor's degree with above average grades is required.
- Completion of at least two semesters of college algebra or trigonometry is considered to be the minimum mathematical preparation.
- A letter of acceptance from NPS is required prior to submitting the application to the automated board.
- Visit <http://www.nps.edu> for more complete prerequisite information.

WHO MAY APPLY:

Permanent civilian members of the AL&T Workforce who are certified in their current position.

LENGTH:

18 months, full-time

LOCATION:

Monterey, CA (residence program)

CLPS:

10 per quarter hour/10 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded

FUNDING SOURCE:

USAASC

HOW TO APPLY:

The announcement and board application are automated processes. Applications should be submitted through the AAPDS. AAPDS can be accessed via your CAMP login at <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp>. The user name and password will be the same used to access the IDP and ACRB. Applicants must still use the IDP to annotate their training courses and programs. AAPDS is connected to the IDP and imports supervisory approved training into the application system. Once in AAPDS, applicants may click on the event for NPS MSPM and follow the tabs to submit the application requirements. Applicants will be asked to provide the following information using AAPDS:

- ACRB.
- Letter of Acceptance from NPS.
- Supervisory Post Utilization Plan.
- Agreement to Continue in Service.
- Applicants should go the following link to review the current announcement: https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp/apps/cappmis/oldModules/aapds/commonFiles/select_event.cfm.

If additional information is needed, please contact Gloria King at 703-805-1251, DSN 655-1251 or e-mail gloria.king@us.army.mil.

NPS - Contract Management (835)

The Contract Management curriculum is designed to provide an advanced education in the concepts, methodologies and analytical techniques necessary for successful management of acquisition and contracting within complex organizations. The curriculum focuses on problem solving and decision-making within the acquisition environment utilizing case studies, teaming exercises, hands-on applications, active participation and other similar activities. Lecture and laboratory tasks require the application of critical thinking to problem solving within actual situations. The system is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills and abilities to manage and lead effectively in systems buying offices, field contracting offices, contract administration offices and contracting policy offices.

The MSCM is conducted by distance learning.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/
PREREQUISITES:**

- Bachelor's degree with a cumulative grade point average of 2.20 or higher.
- Certification at Level II or higher in the contracting career field.
- Letter of Acceptance from NPS.
- Other NPS requirements (visit http://www.nps.navy.mil/dl/dl_degree_programs.html to view current program prerequisites and requirements).

WHO MAY APPLY:

Permanent Civilian members of the AL&T Workforce who are certified to at least Level II in their primary ACF and currently assigned to an acquisition position.

LENGTH:

27 months.

LOCATION:

The course is conducted by distance learning at participant's duty station.

CLPS:

10 per quarter hour/10 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded

HOW TO APPLY:

The ACTEDS CPD CP-14 Program information may be viewed at <http://cpol.army.mil/library/train/catalog>. AAPDS should be accessed via your CAMP login at <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp>. The user name and password will be the same used to access the IDP and ACRB. Applicants must still use the IDP to annotate their training courses and programs. Once in AAPDS, the applicant may click on "apply now" next to the event they wish to apply. Go to CAPPMS via CAMP and click on the AAPDS tab to review the applicant module.

FUNDING SOURCE:

ACTEDS CPD CP-14 Program

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION:**

Contact Christine Rimestad at 703-805-1246 or e-mail christine.rimestad@us.army.mil or contact Mitchell Colston at 703-805-1248 or e-mail mitchell.colston@us.army.mil.

PROGRAM DATES:

The announcement and boards will be announced each year. The announcement will be posted at <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp/>.

NPS - Program Management (836)

The Program Management curriculum focuses on management skills in an acquisition environment. Courses include Economics for Defense Managers; Public Policy and Budgeting; Strategic Management; Advanced Program Management; Test and Evaluation Management; Quality Assurance and Reliability; Managing from a Systems Perspective; Contracts Management and Administration; Systems Engineering for Acquisition Managers; Strategic Acquisition and Program Management; Acquisition of Embedded Weapon Systems Software; Principles of Acquisition Production & Quality Management; Strategic Planning and Policy for the Logistics Manager; Strategic Management; Program Management Policy and Control; and Financial Management for Acquisition Managers. Completion of this curriculum satisfies training requirements for Level III certification in the program management and acquisition logistics career fields; Level II training in the production, quality, manufacturing, SPRDE, and test and evaluation career fields. The program satisfies DAWIA statutory requirements for the 24 or 12 semester hours of business disciplines, as applicable. Transfer credit is allowed up to 12 quarter hours (8 semester hours) of graduate courses in order to satisfy certain NPS courses. The MSPM is conducted by distance learning.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/ PREREQUISITES:

Individuals must meet the NPS prerequisites and USAASC eligibility requirements to be considered for the program. Individuals must apply, be accepted and have a letter of acceptance from NPS before your application can be considered by the board.

Listed below are the NPS and USAASC eligibility requirements:

- Individuals must have a Baccalaureate degree with a minimum undergraduate quality point rating of 2.20.
- Must have completed a college algebra or pre-calculus course.
- Must be certified at Level II or higher in one of the following career fields:
 - Program Management.
 - Contracting.
 - Industrial/Contract Property Management.
 - Purchasing.
 - Production, Quality and Manufacturing.
 - Business, Cost Estimating and Financial Management.
 - Facilities Engineering.
 - Information Technology.
 - Life Cycle Logistics.
 - Test and Evaluation.
 - Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering — Program Systems Engineer.
 - Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering — Science and Technology Manager.
 - Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering — Systems Engineering.

(Note: Each of these certifications must have been accomplished under the provisions of DAWIA or the equivalent for non-DOD personnel.)

In addition to the NPS requirements listed above, you must meet the following eligibility requirements to be selected and receive funding from USAASC:

- Be a permanent civilian member of the AL&T Workforce
- Be a GS-11 and above or equivalent grade within a Demonstration Project or the National Security Personnel System
- Be certified in your current acquisition career field
- Be serving in a competitive appointment Tenure Group 1 or 2
- Have a Letter of Acceptance from NPS

In accordance with AETE policies and procedures, the USAASC will not fund a second master's regardless of the funding source.

WHO MAY APPLY:	Permanent civilian members of the AL&T Workforce who are GS-11 and above or equivalent grade within a Demonstration Project or the National Security Personnel System. Individuals must be certified in their current position. The MSPM may be restricted to specific grade levels based on funding constraints and the needs of the Army.
LENGTH:	The program requires students to take two courses per quarter for eight consecutive quarters over a 24-month period. The program will be delivered exclusively over the Internet using ELUMINATE, an Internet Web-conferencing tool, in two 3-hour sessions a week. To use ELUMINATE, students will need Internet access, a PC microphone and a PC camera (optional).
CLPS:	10 per quarter hour/10 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded.
HOW TO APPLY:	The application and board process used to select individuals for many the opportunities sponsored by USAASC will be conducted using AAPDS. AAPDS is an automated application system and can be accessed via CAMP. Individuals can access CAMP at https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp . The user name and password will be the same used to access the IDP and ACRB.
FUNDING SOURCE:	USAASC
FOR MORE INFORMATION:	Interested applicants should go the following link to review the current announcement for the MSPM: https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp/apps/capp-mis/oldModules/aapds/commonFiles/select_event.cfm . If you need additional assistance, contact Gloria King at 703-805-1251, DSN 655-1251 or e-mail gloria.king@us.army.mil .
PROGRAM DATES:	The announcement and boards will be announced in January or February each year. The announcement will be available at https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp/ .

School of Choice (SOC) Program

The SOC Program provides civilian members of the AAC and AL&T Workforce an opportunity to obtain or complete an undergraduate or graduate degree during duty hours. All colleges and universities must be nationally accredited and offer degree programs in disciplines that underpin acquisition functions. The SOC Program is restricted to universities and colleges that are located within the applicant's local commuting area. Exceptions to this policy will be granted when the desired degree program is not offered in the local commuting area. This program pays tuition, textbooks and lab fees. Local travel expenses are not covered.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/ PREREQUISITES:

To be established by the school. Applicants should contact their school of choice immediately to begin the registration process and to inquire about the school's requirement for Graduation Management Admission Test or Graduate Record Examination testing. Testing and subsequent graduation fees are paid for by the applicant.

The application package must include a current letter of acceptance dated within 12 months of packet submission. In addition:

- Academic plan must be detailed in the IDP and approved by the applicant's supervisor.
- Degree must be completed within 18-24 months.
- Prerequisites must be satisfied prior to program start.
- Undergraduate students must receive a 'C' or better for each funded course; graduate students must receive a 'B' or better for each funded course.
- Applicants will reimburse the government for classes with an incomplete grade, withdrawal, a grade below 'B' in graduate courses, a grade below 'C' in undergraduate courses or departure from federal government service.
- All reimbursements will be made payable to U.S. Treasury; contact the School of Choice Coordinator for mailing address.
- The education disciplines are limited to those that underpin the acquisition functions as described in DODI 5000.66.
- Grades must be submitted to the School of Choice Coordinator upon completion of a semester/quarter.
- No travel per diem will be funded.

WHO MAY APPLY:

Graduate and Undergraduate degrees: Civilian members of the AL&T Workforce who are certified in their current acquisition position.

LENGTH OF TRAINING:

Approved undergraduate degree candidates must take a minimum of 12 hours per semester. Approved graduate degree candidates must take a minimum of 9 hours per semester.

CLPS: SOC applicants are awarded 10 per quarter hour or 10 per semester hour and 30 upon degree completion.

HOW TO APPLY: The SOC application is an automated process. Applications should be submitted through AAPDS. AAPDS can be accessed via your CAMP login at <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp>. The user name and password will be the same used to access the IDP and ACRB. Applicants must still use the IDP to annotate their training courses and programs. AAPDS is connected to the IDP and imports supervisory approved training into the application system. Once in AAPDS, applicants may click on the event for School of Choice and follow the tabs to submit the application requirements. Applicants will be asked to provide the following information using AAPDS:

- Updated ACRB.
- Letter of Acceptance from college or university (dated within 12 months of packet submission).
- Supervisory Post Utilization Plan.
- Three most recent Performance Appraisals (letter signed by supervisor of missing performance evaluations if applicable).
- Agreement to Continue in Service.
- Statement of Interest.
- IDP academic plan.
- University accreditation.
- Updated resume.

FUNDING SOURCE: USAASC

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Applicants should go the following link to review the current announcement for the SOC: <http://asc.army.mil/career/programs/aete/default.cfm>. If additional information or guidance is required, contact the ACM who supports your region. Contact information pertaining to your ACM may be obtained at <http://asc.army.mil/contacts/acms.cfm>.

PROGRAM DATES: The announcement and board will be announced in January or February each year. The announcement will be post at <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp/>.

Acquisition Tuition Assistance Program (ATAP)

The Deputy Director, Acquisition Career Management (DDACM) is responsible, by law, for the education, training and career progression of AAC and AL&T Workforce members. To that end, USAASC shall ensure individuals who must attain DAWIA educational requirements, as stated in DODI 5000.66, are afforded the opportunity to apply for the ATAP. Individuals may attend the institution of their choice within their local commuting area and complete courses during non-duty hours. The student's supervisor must approve course attendance during duty hours. ATAP funding will cover tuition costs, lab fees and textbooks. Travel expenses are not included.

Please refer to the ATAP Policy at http://asc.army.mil/career/programs/atap/atap_policy.cfm for the exact funding limits for each program.

ATAP provides funding to enable AL&T Workforce members to obtain business hours, undergraduate or graduate degrees.

Members must maintain a grade of 'C' or better in undergraduate work and 'B' or better in graduate work and show proof of such to continue to be funded. The education disciplines are limited to those that underpin the acquisition functions as described in DODI 5000.66.

**ELIGIBILITY
REQUIREMENTS:**

- AL&T Workforce members who have met their position certification requirements are eligible for 12 or 24 Business Credits, associate's or bachelor's degree.
- General Schedule (GS-12) (or broadband equivalent) AL&T Workforce members who are at least Level II certified who have met their position certification requirements are eligible.

HOW TO APPLY:

Go to <http://asc.army.mil/career/programs/atap/default.cfm> for ATAP policy, procedures announcement and application information. The ATAP application process is now automated. Please apply at <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp>.

ATAP's need-based board meets usually two times per year, in the fall and spring timeframe.

Contact your ACM if further information is needed. A listing of ACMs may be found at <http://asc.army.mil/contacts/acms.cfm>.